

Gordon and Diane Hanford
7900 Skylineview Drive
Mentor, Ohio 44060

January 12, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

We have always believed in capitalism and free trade. We feel that the antitrust lawsuit that has been brought against Microsoft is in direct violation of these ideals, and that the settlement that has been reached between Microsoft and the Department of Justice is fair. We simply do not wish to see this issue go any further, and as such, we support the settlement. Please do not penalize Microsoft's success, which has come from offering a superior product.

Quite frankly, I am befuddled by the government's pursuit of this case. Microsoft never forced consumers to buy their software, and people buy Microsoft because they make quality products, which they now market for less than those originally offered. How does putting the best product on the market for less make a company a monopoly? Obviously, this consumer feels that this suit is inappropriate.

Finally, we would like to say how pleased we are that you were finally confirmed as Attorney General. There are people in our society that want to attack success at every opportunity. Your reelection bid as Senator showed to what great lengths they will go to, to defeat and smear your outstanding and successful career.

Thank you and God bless!

Sincerely,